THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir. While income-tax concessions have been continuously provided to the State of Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh since 1.4.1993, the tax concession was extended to the State of Uttarakhand *w.e.f.* 7.1.2003.

(b) The quantum of fresh investments made and employment generated in these States are as under:

Jammu & Kashmir [14.6.2002 to 31.3.2007]

Investment - Rs. 3403.47 crore

Employment generated - 72,209

Himachal Pradesh [7.1.2003 to 31.3.2007]

Investment - Rs. 2053.24 crore

Employment generated - 37,893

Uttarakhand [7.1.2003 to 30.6.2006]

Investment - Rs. 19035.88 crore

Employment generated - 1,40,972

(c) The figures for the State of Punjab are not available with the Government.

Foreign exchange spent by students studying abroad

955. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of Indian students studying abroad; and

(b) how much foreign exchange is spent by these students annually by way of remittances through R.B.I?

THE MINISTER OF STATF IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, does not maintain information relating to total number of Indian students studying abroad at a point of time. However, as per that Department, it is estimated that 1,40,000 Indian students went abroad for education during 2004-05.

(b) As per the provisional estimates of the Reserve Bank of India, education related payments under the Travel Account of India's Balance of Payments amounted to US $ 1058 million in 2005-06 as against US $ 642 million in 2004-05.

Decline in National Savings Scheme

956. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the collection from National Savings Scheme has been declining in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of collections during the last three years; State-wise;